of independence has now increased to nearly 40 lakhs and the Department proposes to provide an additional 52 lakhs new telephone connections dur' ing the 8th. Plan, the number of telephones per 100 population is still less than two.

(c) New technology namely electronic exchanges are being installed and full use is made of these exchanges. However, the capacity of the ITI, Mankapur is only 5 lakhs lines per year.

The benefit of new technology can be fully realised only when a major portion of the network is digitalised. Every effort is being made to expand thr digital network as fast as possible subject to the constraints regarding equipment and funds.

(d) 50 per cent concession is available to subscriber dialled calls between 19 and 22 hours and 6 to 8 hours. The charges are still lower for S.T.D. calls made between 22 hours and 6 hours when only 25 per cent of normal charge is levied.

(e) The charges for various tele-phone services have been kept as low as possible. Any increase has generally been to neutralise the increase in cost of provid'ng the service and for generating and quate surplus to expand and modernisf the network.

"RLU" Systems in Telephone Exchanges in Calcutta

916. PROF. SOURENDRA BHAT-TIA.CHAR4EE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Calcutta Telephones have set up "RLU" systems in various exchanges in Calcutta;

(b) whether some of the old exchanges *viz*- '45' and '46' have completely failed to provide service to the subscribers;

(c) whether more than 60 per cent telephone lines of these exchanges remain out of service;

(d) whether complaints of the sub-cribers are not being properly attended; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and further action to be taken to immediately install "RLU" systems in these exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IN-DEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, the exchanges have outlived their rated lives and plans have been prepared to replace these exchanges by electronic Remote Line Units.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. All efforts are made to quickly restore the lines to ensure redressal of complaints.

(e) Does not arise.

Fire Protection Measures in the Office Buildings of Posts and Telecommunications Department in the Country

917 PROF. SOURENDRA BHAT-TACHARJEE; Will the Minister oi COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the buildings and multi-storied office premises of the depart ments of Posts and Telecommunica tions Deoartment in the country do not have adequate fire protection mea sures to prevent fire accidents;

(b) whether the Departments own civil wing has not yet developed its own measures of safety and/or to work and observe the prescribed fire safety rules;

(c) whether none of the premises has fire protection doors;